



December 2015 eNewsletter | Volume 2, Issue 12

Happy Holidays from Phoenix Public Library! Read about events in December and more below.

## Happy Holidays from Phoenix Public Library!

Looking for a little inspiration this holiday season? Check out our handy holiday guides. From "[Winter Travel](#)" to "[Buy Local](#)," we've got you covered. Be on the lookout for our "Best of 2015" lists beginning December 4. You'll find all of the above at [phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://phoenixpubliclibrary.org). While you're there, don't forget to check the online calendar for family-friendly activities at a location near you. Happy Holidays from Phoenix Public Library!



## Join Us for These Holiday Events and More...

Looking for something to do this holiday season? Add a few events to your packed itinerary with these program recommendations. Click on the linked program names to view event details in our online calendar.

### Polar Express

All aboard the Polar Express! Join us for a children's storytime and activities. Wear your PJs!

- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Monday, Dec. 7 | South Mountain Community Library**
- 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. | Thursday, Dec. 10 | Mesquite Library**
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Monday, Dec. 14 | Juniper Library**
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Tuesday, Dec. 15 | Agave Library**
- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Dec. 16 | Burton Barr Central Library**
- 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. | Thursday, Dec. 17 | Ironwood Library**
- 1 – 4 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 19 | Desert Broom Library**



### Reading in a Winter Wonderland

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of games, popcorn, coffee and cider, sno-cones, face painting, crafts, reading to Orlagh—the Golden Retriever therapy dog, storytelling by the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute and a horse drawn wagon ride around the park. Bring the entire family! Sponsored by the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library - Cesar Chavez Chapter.

**2 – 4 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 12 | Cesar Chavez Library**

## Winter Carnival

Families are invited to come celebrate Arizona's unique winter season at Ocotillo Library's Winter Carnival. Join us for cool games, cozy crafts and a special STEAMy science project. There may even be some AZ snow!

**1 – 2:30 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 19 | Ocotillo Library**



## Holiday Festival

Need some time alone to get last minute holiday errands done? Send Dad and the kids to the library — watch holiday cartoons and make festive crafts. There will also be a holiday performance by the Desert Vista Music Club Quartet at 1 p.m.

**Noon – 4 p.m. | Saturday, Dec. 19 | Ironwood Library**



## New Year's Noon Party

Come celebrate the New Year as we countdown to noon. We'll have games, crafts, hats and noisemakers. This program is free. Registration is not required but supplies are limited.

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Thursday Dec. 31 | Yucca Library**

**AND MANY MORE!!!**

## **New for You: Best ePicks**

More of what you want, faster...with [Best ePicks](#) on Axis 360!

Tired of waiting on a long hold list for bestsellers? Check out our new Best ePicks collection—it includes the most popular titles with long hold lists on other eBook platforms. With no holds on Best ePicks, there's a much better chance of checking out an available copy.

Check often and keep up to date on your bestseller reading.

Here's a tip...browse the "recently returned" tab for titles that are guaranteed to be checked in—what you see is what you get! [Click here to learn more about getting started with Best ePicks.](#)



## **New for You: Active Workstations**

Burn off a few extra calories by using an [Active Workstation](#) at a [FitPHX Energy Zone](#) near you. Active Workstations include a treadmill with a desk and computer that library customers can use to surf, or in this case, walk the internet. Active workstations are available at Harmon, Palo Verde, and Yucca Libraries.

Active Workstations allow you to engage in mild physical activity while accomplishing tasks online – anything from checking email to catching up on the latest celebrity gossip in your favorite magazines via [Zinio](#). Customers may sign up for half-hour time slots on a first come, first served basis.



## Don't Forget: Holiday Closures

Phoenix Public Library locations will observe the following holiday closures:

**Friday, December 4 | Staff Development Day – closed (South Mountain Community Library will be open)**

**Thursday, December 24 | Christmas Eve – close at noon**

**Friday, December 25 | Christmas – closed**

**Thursday, December 31 | New Year's Eve – close at 5 p.m.**

**Friday, January 1, 2016 | New Year's Day – closed**



## Great Reads You Might Have Missed: Fond Foodie Memories

Collection Development is responsible for selecting materials for the Library's collection, everything from books and DVDs to databases and streaming services. Check out their musings on the joy of cookbooks and holiday recipes.



This year I discovered a ten-year-old title, [\*Greens Glorious Greens\*](#) by Johnna Albi and Catherine Walthe. The authors have tested cooking methods and offer their evaluation of the best preparation methods for each green as well as 140 recipes. I am improving my health, pleasing my tummy and now know more about arugula than anyone in my carnivorous family. It also makes a great gift for friends who love to read about the background of food. Who knew arugula has more calcium in it than collards or kale?!

–Kathleen Sullivan

Ten months out of the year I try to eat well, responsibly packing my oatmeal and salads every day. But all bets are off in November and December, meaning carbs of every kind are on my mind. This year, I took the Apple Pecan Crumble Pie in Nancie McDermott's [\*Southern Pies\*](#) to Thanksgiving dinner. I also made cornbread dressing, sweet potato casserole and homemade yeast rolls, all recipes I learned from my Grandma. If you're not afraid of butter, check out [\*Fannie Flagg's Whistle Stop Café Cookbook\*](#) for similar holiday-friendly recipes. And don't forget to have black-eyed peas on New Year's Day! There's a great recipe for Hoppin John in [\*The Neely's Celebration Cookbook\*](#), as well as a Bourbon Bread Pudding that will knock your holiday socks off!

–Jeriann Thacker

My favorite "foodie" read is *Bon Appétit* magazine. The Thanksgiving issue, to me, is like the swimsuit issue of *Sports Illustrated* to others. Every year I look forward to the recipes so I can try out a new stuffing, or new way to make cranberry sauce. I still have a very tattered copy of a stuffing recipe made with Shepherd's bread, green chile, pine nuts and raisins. Delicious. *Bon Appétit* is available electronically at the Library through [Zinio](#), and in print at several branches.

–Elsa Black

I grew up in the Midwest, a place where only recently have “outsiders” come to appreciate the fresh ingredients and simple recipes which have always been more than comfort food to those with roots in America’s heartland. And, it can be confusing. What is “Chicken Fried Steak” or lefse (think Norwegian tortillas)? Is there a difference between a “hotdish” and a “casserole”? And why is there elbow macaroni in my chili? Though I didn’t always understand the names of dishes, I knew everything I ate would be filling, tasty and I would go back for more. My family always looked forward to church potlucks, backyard birthday and graduation parties where the whole neighborhood is coming and no one needs an invitation, and indoor tailgate parties to watch our favorite NFL team romp in the snow. If you want to experience the great food of the Midwest, check out these titles:

**[Church Potluck Slow Cooker: Homestyle Recipes for Family and Community Celebrations](#)** by Linda Johnson Larsen and **[Church Supper Desserts](#)** (a compilation from *Taste of Home* magazine).  
–Linda Kiecker



## Take the Amazing Library Survey!

Your opinion matters to us! Phoenix Public Library is your library and we want to hear from you in order to better serve your needs. If you haven’t already done so, please take a brief moment to complete the [online Amazing Library survey](#). Your suggestions will help us to further our efforts in meeting the needs of our community. It’s your library, let’s make it amazing!

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[Phoenix Public Library](#) is a system of 16 branch libraries and the Burton Barr Central Library. Keep up with all the news. Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/phxlibrary](https://twitter.com/phxlibrary), follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary](https://instagram.com/phoenixpubliclibrary) and “like us” on Facebook at [facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary](https://facebook.com/phoenixpubliclibrary).